

HFL – Mendon Youth Baseball 12U 50/70 Tournament Rules

1. The tournament will run from June 22nd through June 30th, 2018 unless scheduled games are delayed by weather. The tournament will consist of a round-robin with 4 teams from each division (Travel and All Star) advancing to a single elimination playoff. If we experience significant rain with multiple postponed dates, the playoff round may be changed to a single championship game between the top 2 teams (in each division) from the round-robin.

2. A player must not have reached the age of 13 prior to May 1, 2018. Although this is an 11 and 12 year old tournament, you may include 10 year olds to fill out your roster, keeping in mind that they will be participating with mostly 12 year olds. A team may roster up to 15 players. No player may be rostered on more than one team in the tournament. Nine players will play in the field every game.

Payment, rosters, copy of birth certificates and evidence of insurance (naming HFL – Mendon Youth Baseball as an additional insured) must be submitted prior to your first game. Any player without a valid birth certificate or passport will not be allowed to play.

3. Should a team originally scheduled to play in the tournament withdraw from the tournament, either before or during tournament play, HFLMYB reserves the right to place a substitute team in its place. The replacement team will assume the replaced team's record including any forfeits.

4. Coaches and Players Conduct:

- Sportsmanship code: Promote good sportsmanship both on and off the field and encourage life-long friendships.
- Any player ejected from a game will be suspended from two consecutive games.
- **Any coach ejected from a game will be removed from the ball field premises for the remainder of the tournament, including any post tournament ceremonies. The coach may not return as a spectator or parent.**
- Please remind your players to respect the upkeep of the ball fields by picking up trash around the bench at the conclusion of the game.
- Replace all divots and refrain from digging cleats into the infield and outfield grass areas.
- For safety, do not swing bats outside the field of play in the spectator area.

5. All decisions by the tournament officials are final. Officials shall consist of officers from the HFL – Mendon Youth Baseball League.

6. You may carry one manager, three coaches and up to 15 players on your roster – please be sure you have enough players on your roster to complete the tournament. **Please do not enter this tournament if you cannot completely commit to the dates and times described.**

7. Up to 15 trophies will be awarded to both teams participating in the championship game (15 championship trophies and 15 runner-up trophies). All Tournament Team selections will be announced at the final game. Medals will be awarded to the members of the All Tournament Team.

8. The game can be called by the umpire or tournament officials if it is deemed unsafe to continue to play. Any team who attempts to deliberately circumvent the rules may not be extended an invitation to participate in the future.
9. No smoking at the field complex - please go to the parking lot if you must smoke.
10. Tie breakers in the round robin are as follows:
 - First tie-breaker - Head to head competition
 - Second tie-breaker - Least runs allowed in head to head competition
 - Third tie-breaker - Least runs allowed in overall play in the round robin
 - Fourth tie-breaker - Coin flip

Ground Rules

1. Managers shall be responsible for the conduct of the coaches, players and parents. Anyone who engages in unsportsmanlike behavior should be dealt with by the manager. If such behavior continues, or the individual is ejected from the game/fields by the umpire, the manager shall enforce the ejection or the games will be forfeited. Any disputes or complaints about officials, umpires or other teams should be brought to the attention of the tournament directors after the game.
2. Less than nine (9) players at game time will constitute a forfeit. The score will be recorded as 6–0. A team may finish the game with 8 players due to an injury. The team will be assessed an out when the injured players time at bat occurs. If a team is unable to start a game within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time, the game will be recorded as a forfeit.
3. Any schedule changes during the round robin will be done with both coaches' consent and the consent of the tournament committee (contact information will be posted on our website). No playoff games or championship games will be changed and any team that forfeits during the playoffs will be replaced by the team they last defeated.
4. Players:
 - Nine players shall play in the field during the game. Each team must bat a minimum of nine batters.
 - A team may bat as many players as they would like in a continuous batting order. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game except for the case of an injury. Example: If you start the game with a 14 player continuous batting order, you must finish the game with a 14 player continuous batting order. Final batting lineups should be exchanged with the opposing team at the umpire's ground rule meeting at home plate prior to the beginning of the game.
 - There is free defensive substitution within the continuous batting order (if you are batting more than 9).
 - If a substitute is put in the field and he/she is not part of the original batting order, he/she must assume the batting position of the player he/she has replaced.
 - Starters may re-enter the game in the same offensive spot once during the game. Substitutes cannot re-enter the game once they have been removed. **Exception to this rule: in the case of injury and all legal substitutions have been used.**

- **Courtesy runner:** A courtesy runner can be used for the catcher only, at anytime. This is not a substitution and is optional. The catcher must be in the game defensively at the time of the utilization of the courtesy runner. You must use a player not in the current lineup. If you are batting everyone, no courtesy runner is allowed.
- Once a pitcher has been removed from the pitching position, he/she may not pitch again. He/she may play any other position.
- On a batted fair ball that subsequently goes out of play, the batter will be awarded a ground rule double.

5. All playing rules will follow the Little League Rule Book except in cases stated in the ground rules.

- Base coaches may be players, (they must wear helmets), coaches or managers from the roster.
- **Allowable bats must either be (A) certified to BPF 1.15 with barrels that do not exceed 2 ¼” in diameter and 33” in length, or (B) certified to the new USA Bat Standard with barrels that do not exceed 2 5/8” in diameter and 33” in length. Bats with barrel diameters in excess of 2 5/8” are prohibited. If an illegal bat is used, Little League rules apply.**
- Infield fly rule is in effect.
- Dropped third strike is in effect.
- **A fly ball that hits the extended fence in left field of Kissack Field (#1) is in play – a homerun must go over the top of the fence. A fly ball that hits the scoreboard in right field of Kissack Field (#1) is a home run.**
- Wild Pick Off Throw. If the pitcher steps off the rubber in a pick off attempt and throws the ball out of play, the runner is entitled to the base he/she was moving toward and one more.
- Head-first slides are not permitted unless the runner is returning to a base.
- **Pitchers will be given one balk warning per pitcher per game.** Following the warning, the pitcher or coach may request an explanation of the violation from the umpire. All subsequent balks will be called for said pitcher regardless if the violation is different from the one previously enforced.
- The coach may cross the foul line and visit the pitcher on the mound. A second trip to the mound during the same inning will require immediate removal of the pitcher (any undue delays of the game will not be tolerated by the umpire). The removed pitcher may remain in the game or return at a later time at any position (except pitcher), provided the pitcher is not a substitute to the original lineup. Only three visits per game to the mound by any manager or coach is allowed. Any additional visits must accompany a removal of the pitcher. A trip to the mound for the removal of the pitcher does not constitute a visit.
- Any ball pitched or thrown that gets lodged or goes under the fence is a dead ball and the runners will advance one extra base without being put out (one plus one rule if runners are advancing on a thrown ball). If the umpire does not see the ball lodged or go under the fence it remains live, so be sure to have your players notify the umpire prior to retrieving the ball by raising a hand.
- Any runner, who misses a base while advancing, if seen by the umpire, shall be called out at the end of the play (no appeal will be in effect). If this event results in the third out of the inning, any runs that scored shall be counted.

- At the end of a half inning or complete inning once the game is official (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or 4 innings if the visitor is ahead), the game will be over if the run differential is 12 or more. Once the game is official, the “mercy rule” can only be applied at the conclusion of a half inning if the home team is ahead by 12 or more runs and at the conclusion of a complete inning if the visiting team is ahead by 12 or more runs. This rule will apply in all games of the tournament, with the exception of the championship game.
 - A regulation game is six innings (or 5 ½ if the home team is ahead). The game goes into extra innings if tied after six innings, if time and weather permits.
 - During the round robin, no games will be started over. If a game does not go the minimum number of innings to be an official game and is suspended because of weather or darkness, the game will resume at a later date where it left off. All pitchers will be considered to be pitching on the original game date. In evening games, no new inning can start after 8:25 PM.
 - During the round robin, if a game has gone the minimum number of innings to be official and is called, due to weather or darkness, the game shall be considered over. The final score shall be recorded as of the end of the last complete inning. If the score is tied at the end of the last complete inning, it will be recorded as a tied game.
 - During the playoffs, any game that is suspended (whether official or not) will resume at the point of suspension. All pitchers will be considered as pitching on the regularly scheduled day. All playoff games and the championship game must be complete games (unless the “mercy rule” was applicable in playoff games prior to the championship game).
 - **There is no limit to the number of pitchers you can use in this tournament. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 9 consecutive outs per game, a maximum of 15 outs per calendar day, and a maximum of 42 outs for the entire tournament. If a pitcher pitches more than 9 outs in a calendar day (doubleheader), or pitches more than 9 outs over the span of two consecutive calendar days, he/she must have one complete calendar day of rest before his/her next outing. Any violation of the pitching rules will result in the forfeit of the game in which the violation occurred. Pitchers may not re-enter a game as a pitcher.**
 - Should thunder and/or lightning occur during the course of a game, play will be immediately halted. Players and spectators should seek shelter under Benshoff Pavilion or in their automobiles. Benshoff Pavilion is equipped with lightning protection. After 30 minutes, the umpires and league officials will decide whether play can be safely resumed.
 - The home team’s scorebook is the official game scorebook.
-
- **Swinging the bat outside the field of play is not permitted.**
 - **Please – no “soft-toss” against the field fencing.**